

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 EUR-12 SAJ-01 /080 W

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R 210744Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 471

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 3015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, BM

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR ALSO IN DARK ABOUT GUB VOTE ON  
RESOLUTION

1. I MET NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR MA JANG CHOL AND HIS DCM JANG JUN YONG AT A SOVIET ART EXHIBITION OCTOBER 20, AND AS USUAL EX-CHANGED GREETINGS WITH THE AMBASSADOR IN JAPANESE (HE SPEAKS NO ENGLISH AND SEEMS NOT TO MIND USING JAPANESE). I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN ON THE KOREAN RESOLUTION. HE SAID HE WAS OF COURSE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THEIR RESOLUTION WOULD BE ADOPTED, AND ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT; DID NOT OUR ACCOMMODATION OF THE FRENCH MODIFICATIONS SHOW WE KNEW OUR RESOLUTION WAS WEAK? QUOTE THE CONTRARY, I SAID, WE WERE EQUALLY CONFIDENT OUR RESOLUTION WOULD WIN. BUT HOW ARE THE BURMESE GOING TO VOTE? MA SHRUGGED, GRIM-ACED, AND SAID "THEY WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING."

2. BIOGRAPHIC COMMENT: THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN MA SINCE HIS ELEVATION TO AMBASSADOR. HE WAS PLEASANT AS USUAL; HE IS ONE OF THE FEW NORTH KOREANS I HAVE MET WHOSE MANNER DOES NOT REMIND ONE IRRESISTIBLY OF PANMUNJOM. IN CONTRAST, THERE HAS BEEN A BIG CHANGE IN MA'S DEPUTY. JANG, A POOR LINGUIST, SPENT WEEKS LEARNING HOW TO SAY, THROUGH CLENCHED TEETH, "GET YOUR TROOPS OUT OF KOREA\*" FOR MY BENEFIT. AT RECEPTIONS, SEEMING ME WITH MA, HE USED TO COME UP AND ATTEMPT TO DELIVER THIS STANDARD GREETING, EVENTUALLY, A FEW MONTHS AGO, ACHIEVING INTELLIGIBILITY. I

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ASSUME HE IS THEIR STATION CHIEF. MA HAS OFTEN POKED GENTLE FUN

AT JANG BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF JAPANESE. AT MONDAY'S RECEPTION, JANG SEEMED A CHANGED MAN. HE IS WORKING ON A NEW ENGLISH PHRASE WHICH, WHILE NOT YET FULLY INTELLIGIBLE, IS CLEARLY MEANT TO BE PLEASANT. HE EVEN TRIED (UNSUCCESSFULLY) TO SPEAK A LITTLE JAPANESE WITH US. HE WAS NOT WEARING HIS KIM BUTTON, ANOTHER FIRST, AS FAR AS I RECALL. I DID NOT SEE MA'S INTERPRETER, A RATHER SURLY YOUNG MAN WHO, HOWEVER, IS USUALLY GLAD TO EXCHANGE A FEW PLEASANTRIES IN BURMESE (HE SPEAKS NO ENGLISH).  
OSBORN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, VOTING, UNGA RESOLUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975RANGOO03015  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750364-0924  
**From:** RANGOON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 70  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR ALSO IN DARK ABOUT GUB VOTE ON RESOLUTION  
**TAGS:** PINR, BM, KS, KN, (MA JANG CHOL), (JANG JUN YONG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006